

one State that has an increase in the amount of natural gas it is producing. That is Wyoming. The rest of them are declining.

Let us see what happens if the use slows up and the supply goes down. Oh, the price goes up. You could be seeing the lowest prices in energy that you are ever going to see if we could use some of that U.S. ingenuity and figure out ways to make hydrogen out of the coal or other things. But I do have a lot of faith in U.S. ingenuity, provided we don't regulate them out of business.

OVERTIME

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I will take 1 last minute to thank Secretary Chao for the work she did on overtime. We had a lot of discussions about the proposed overtime rule that was put out for comment. What you saw on this floor was an action to try to stop reviewing the 80,000 comments that have come in. We allowed her to look at those 80,000 comments. I commend the Secretary for the work she did in paying attention to what people were saying. We don't see much of that in the Government, but the Department of Labor, under Secretary Chao, took a look at what people have been saying and made corrections in the rule before the final rule was published.

She raised the amount to the maximum. We had already raised the amount on the minimum. She made sure that first responders would not lose overtime; that nurses would not lose overtime; and that veterans trained and going into the job force would not lose overtime.

I commend her for reading those 80,000 letters. I commend her and the Department for taking the corrective action. Doing the process makes a difference. She did the process and she made sure they responded.

I yield the floor. I reserve the remainder of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

THE ROTATION OF U.S. FORCES INTO AND OUT OF IRAQ

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I rise today to inform the Senate of an undertaking that has, in my view, not received adequate attention in the press or by the American public. This undertaking has required tremendous planning, and has been on a massive scale.

As the news from Iraq dominates our attention, an important and notable success story has gone largely unnoticed. I refer to the massive troop rotation in the Iraq theater that is now nearing completion by our Armed Forces. This is the largest U.S. troop rotation since World War II—more than 250,000 U.S. service members have been involved.

Planning for this rotation of forces in Iraq has been underway for many months. The meticulous quality of that planning, the absolute attention to de-

tail by thousands of military planners, logisticians, and transportation specialists has resulted in a near flawless rotation of forces.

Consider for a moment the sheer size of the logistics effort involved in rotation over a quarter million combat troops, in mobilizing them, in transporting them by sea or air, supplying them, and in simply keeping them sheltered and fed. And now, consider doing all of that in a place that is nearly half a world away, and at the same time, continuing the pace of military operations and combat in Iraq, without skipping a beat.

New units began flowing into the region in December of last year, and to date, over 95 percent of the service members deploying to Iraq have arrived in the region.

I would like the Senate to consider some of the facts and figures for the deployment and redeployment, or return, of forces in that area.

Over 900,000 short tons of equipment and supplies have been shipped to support operation Iraqi Freedom.

Over fifty-seven sealift ships have sailed, delivering more than 426,000 short tons into theater, and 13 ships have returned 88,000 short tons back stateside.

Nearly 3,000 airlift missions have been completed, and over 63,000 flight hours.

Ninety-seven thousand soldiers scheduled for redeployment have returned home from Iraq.

Over 91,000 reserve component soldiers were mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom 1, and over 54,000 for Operation Iraqi Freedom 2.

Last month I was privileged to travel to the Central Command Theater to see first hand the magnitude of this effort. I traveled with my good friends the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and JOHN WARNER, and the senior Senator from South Carolina, FRITZ HOLLINGS. We saw our forces in Baghdad and in Balad, Iraq and traveled into Afghanistan to visit our forces there.

I simply cannot say how absolutely impressed we were with the fighting spirit and combat power displayed by these young Americans.

We spent some time with the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad, and MG Martin Dempsey's absolutely impressive forces. General Dempsey's forces are providing stability and security in a dangerous part of Baghdad. They know they have an important mission. You could see the dedication and courage in each of their faces. They know why they are there.

We also spent some time with Joint Task Force 180, in Bagram, Afghanistan. MG Lloyd Austin, a really impressive commander of the 10th Mountain Division. His soldiers are pursuing Taliban and al-Qaida remnants in the mountains of Afghanistan. His forces, too, are remarkably bright and dedicated young men and women. Spending time with them was inspiring to us all.

We had planned to visit the 1st Battalion of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment from Alaska. They are deployed to Khost, Afghanistan, in the rough mountains near the Pakistan border.

Unfortunately, an aircraft malfunction required that we change planes, and that delay meant we were unable to make that stop to see those Alaskan forces. We are terribly proud of them and all of the forces there around the country in that area.

My friends and I also went to Kuwait and saw forces moving into and out of Iraq. Kuwait is where much of the logistics operation for the troop rotation is based. The level of this effort is nothing short of remarkable to see.

In Kuwait, we visited with troops from the 4th Infantry Division, the division that captured Saddam Hussein, as they were moving home and preparing their gear for return. We visited with these troops at the "wash rack" where each vehicle is cleaned from top to bottom before returning home so there is no contamination from the wartime area.

It takes nearly 8 hours to fully clean a vehicle of all the dirt, sand and wear that accumulate. Dozens of these wash racks were operating day and night, 24/7, until every last piece of gear is cleaned and ready to return home.

Many of the division's vehicles were staged and lined up, ready to return home. That was truly a sight to see—rows of rows and rows of all types of military vehicles, scores of vehicles. I saw the remarkable size and scope of our logistics effort to rotate these forces in Iraq, and the magnitude of that effort is simply amazing.

General Robert Barrow, a former commandant of the Marine Corps, in 1980 said: "Amateurs talk about tactics, but professionals study logistics." That statement has again been proven true by the nearly flawless rotation of U.S. forces in and out of Iraq. That rotation is now nearly complete, and it is a remarkable achievement. This massive movement of forces and equipment, the largest since World War II, has largely gone unreported and little noticed by the American people. However, it is a true success story and one that needs to be told, and needs to be told on the floor of the Senate.

This rotation of forces is an absolute testament to the will, dedication and commitment of our men and women in uniform. They are to be commended for what they do for all Americans, and once again, they have made us proud.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask to proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OVERTIME

Mr. GREGG. I join the senior Senator from Alaska, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, in his excellent statement congratulating our